Facilities for testing and standardization of consumer items

562. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities available for testing and standardization of consumer items in the country are adequately effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation; and

(d) the number and details of complaints for violation of the norms for standard of consumer items received and disposed of during the last three years, alongwith the penalty imposed on the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is having a network of 8 laboratories at Sahibabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Mohali, Bangalore, Patna and Guwahati Supporting the operation of its Product Certification Scheme. All the BIS laboratories except at Patna and Guwahati are accredited by national Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for various parameters. Where facilities in BIS laboratories are not available or are overloaded, services of about 120 BIS recognized outside laboratories are utilized by it for testing the samples bearing ISI mark under its product Certification Scheme. BIS has 14 Division Councils which are looking after specified areas of standardization.

(d) The number and details of complaints registered for violation of norms for standards of consumer items received and disposed during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Number of complaints registered	Number of complaints redressed
2004-05	130	66
2005-06	82	120
2006-07	73	109
2007-08 till 30/10/07	28	38

If the complaint is established, it is ensured that the manufactures of the product takes necessary corrective actions, failing which the licensee is liable for servere action against him as per established procedures of BIS. Regarding the complaints as registered during the last three years, 15 Licensees were put to stop marking.

Distribution of red wheat under PDS

563. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that red wheat had been provided under public distribution system in various States of the country during the last few months;